

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claim 30 is presently active in this case. Claim 30 is amended, and Claims 1-29 and 31-47 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of the present amendment.

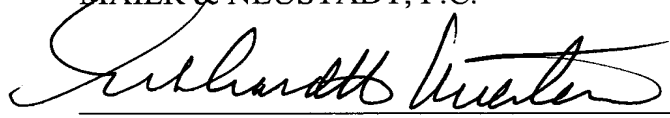
Initially, Applicants note that an IDS which was filed on December 21, 2001, has not been acknowledged as considered. Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of consideration of the references in that IDS by providing Applicants with an initialed Form PTO-1449 from that IDS. For convenience, a copy of that IDS filed December 21, 2001, is submitted herein.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 7-9, 11, 17, 19-24, 24, 27-29, and 31-47 are withdrawn from consideration; Claims 1, 4, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Siracusa (U.S. Patent No. 5,483,287); Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Siracusa in view of Jang, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,913); and Claim 30 is objected to but otherwise indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of any intervening claims and its base claim.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowed claims. Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, the grounds for rejection and objection are moot, and Claim 30 is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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